



# Good News for families

July 2020

## Heavy Bags

I have a bag of bags. Actually, many bags of bags. My husband thinks this is ridiculous. Plastic grocery bags at the ready for an eventual need. Reusable shopping bags just waiting to be called into action. Even a box of gift bags for every possible occasion. Baby shower? Boom, bag. Wedding gift? Ta-da! There's a bag for that. Birthday party? Would you like cake or balloons on your bag? Someday my husband will come around and admit that having a million bags is the best way to live.

Not all bags bring me such great satisfaction and joy. When the bags are full, they're a total burden. Heading into church on Sundays, I'm often carrying a diaper bag, a bag full of books, a Sunday School bag, and, finally, my purse. It's hard to get around. And if I drop something and need to bend down to pick it up? Oh, it's all over. Everything comes swinging down around me, and it's a total disaster. Too. Many. Bags.

Do you feel as though you're carrying too much? Heavier than a stocked diaper bag, our burdens weigh on us, making it impossible to move around freely and joyfully. Every step

is drudgery. We're slow, overly cautious, tense, cranky, and completely ill-positioned to help others with their burdens. It's hard to fulfill our vocations when we're so weighed down with sin, guilt, shame, bitterness, worry, anger, and fear. And you know what that gets us? Even more heavy bags, right under our eyes, caused by a lack of sleep. These bags just have to go.

Maybe my husband is on to something here. He knows the words of Jesus well:

Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28–30)


Rather than filling more and more bags and carrying them around like pack mules, we're commanded by our Lord to just let them go. He slips them off our shoulders, transferring the heaviness of our sin, and all that goes

*Continued ...*

with it, onto Himself. He willingly went to the cross to take all of this on—we have only to trust Him.

Ah! That feels better. Our work is lighter. When bad things happen and something drops—and it will—we can easily scoop it up, no swinging bags in our way. We can have joy in vocations, brought to us by the peace that surpasses all understanding, even Christ Himself. He takes on our burdens, and the best thing of all is that we are now freed up to serve others with joy, helping them in their time of

need and pointing them to the source of that freedom and joy.

This isn't theoretical. This is reality. When we confess our sins—whether individually to a pastor, who stands in the stead of Christ, or corporately in worship—our sins are gone. Taken away. Forgiven. They aren't hiding in another bag. Jesus has made off with them, and He has no intention of handing them back to us. When we pray, He also promises to hear us, taking on our troubles and making them His own. He alone gives us rest. What a friend we have in Jesus! 

Author: Dcs. Jennifer L. Miller

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## Recommended Reading

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### *Living Life, Living Faith*

by Edward and Aaron Grube

What lies ahead? What does God have in store for me? These are questions we all face as we experience change in our lives and move toward new beginnings. Perhaps you've just graduated from college, are starting a new job, or are moving halfway across the country (or neighborhood). No matter the changes, our God never changes, and neither does what He did for you through Christ.

Father, Edward, and son, Aaron, work together to bring you fifty-two devotions that cover a plethora of life's issues, including anxiety, staying connected to God, life changes, and even coping with crisis. Each devotion is followed by a short reflection, along with a Scriptural application.

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**Thank you for your help with medical expenses for Bradley Jessee.  
Bradley is the son of Royce and Marla Junghanns.  
He is experiencing brain cancer, for the third time.  
Bradley must travel to Houston, TX every  
three weeks to MD Anderson  
for infusion and cancer treatment.  
Many expenses for travel, as well as, for the treatment  
are being incurred.  
Your support and prayers are much  
appreciated.  
Our Heartfelt Thanks**

**Please consider donating to help  
Bradly and his family with expenses**

**Make checks checks payable to:**

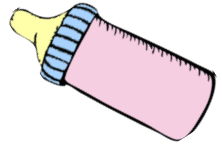
***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church***

***Memo Line:***

***Benevolent Fund: Bradly Jessee***



**EDEN CLINIC**  
**Baby Bottle Project**  
**AUGUST 2-30, 2020**



Due to the corona virus pandemic this spring, the requested limited attendance at church services and social distancing, the Eden Clinic was unable to have this fundraiser in May.

The LWML has agreed to do the fund raiser without the “physical” pick-up and return of the baby bottles. Instead, if interested in supporting this project, we request you make your check payable to

**Eden Clinic**

**Memo Line: Good Shepherd BBP  
and mail the check to  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
700 N. Air Depot Blvd  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
ATTN: Gayle Brown.**

I will consolidate the checks and forward them to the Eden Clinic so their bookkeeper will know what organization donated the funds.

Please pray for the young women and the babies as you make your decisions to write a check. Now more than ever we know that to God “All lives matter - both the born and the unborn!”

Thank you for supporting this effort.  
Gayle Brown

# Prayer Focus 2020

**Continue to Join us in Prayer** – Please Join us in being proactive in praying to God regarding the happenings in our congregation, our members, our country, in our communities, the spirit in our society, etc. We, at Good Shepherd Lutheran are asking you to join with us and our congregation, school, and Child Development Center to be in prayer.

Continue by focusing on **If My People Pray . . . 2 Chronicles 7:11-22.** More specifically, we are focusing on the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says:

“If my people who are called by my name humble

If My People  
humble

themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

## **As we focus on these words:**

- Let us also put them into practice by praying for our congregation, our members, our country, our communities, those that work in them; authorities who govern, those in harm’s way; policemen, firemen, first responders, medical staff, caregivers, etc.;
- Those that are expressing their displeasures of how things/events are taking place, protesting, rioting, etc.;
- Those who are destroying properties, creating harm for others, and the like.
- May God bring semblance of order and respect for each other and properties that are being destroyed; liberty and justice for all.
- May we be reminded of Christ’s commandment to “Love one another as I have loved you”.
- May we humble ourselves and pray, seeking God’s face and His ways so that God’s blessings may be upon ALL His people and bring glory to His name.

**We are asking you to be especially focused in prayer at these times each day-**

9:20 a.m.  
12:20 p.m.  
3:20 p.m.  
6:20 p.m.



**Thank you for your prayers each and every day!**

(See some possible suggested petitions on reverse side.)

## **Consider These Petitions to Pray –**

### **Merciful Heavenly Father, we earnestly pray:**

- For the Church and her witness of hope to the world, that in every city, village, and home across the globe the voice of the LORD may be heard by the faithful preaching of the Gospel.
- Our Creator and LORD, from You all things come and to You are all things directed. Provide for our nation faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your law, protect and defend the citizens, preserve the precious gift of liberty, and inspire us to use our freedom honorably. Make us mindful of the heritage our forebears have given to this land, and guide us to be faithful in our stewardship of all the resources You have provided.
- For our congregation of Good Shepherd, our members, and Pastor Simpson; and for the resources to accomplish what the LORD has given us to do despite all obstacles and temptations, that united in the faith we may serve the LORD with joy.
- For all who live under the flag of our nation, for those who govern in this country, and for the causes of peace and justice, that we may all be given grace and freedom to serve the LORD honorably and in accord with His Word; Hear our prayer O LORD.
- For the poor and hungry, the sick, the homeless, unemployed, the oppressed, for the wounded in spirit, that the LORD would make them whole; and for the grieving, that the LORD would comfort them, especially all affected by the ongoing pandemic and its effects.
- O LORD, we thank You for the blessings that come to us as citizens of this nation. Guide our leaders by the truths given through natural law and Holy Scripture. Preserve our citizenry from strife and discord. Give to Your people in this land both the courage and the liberty to proclaim Your Word and live faithfully according to it, reminding us that our truest citizenship is in heaven. Grant us Your peace, O LORD.

**O blessed LORD, through Moses You called a people to Yourself and from them You delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior. By His sufferings and death, He has redeemed us sinners from our sins, and by His resurrection He has released us from the fear of death. Help us to live as Your own people, doing the good works for which we were created, and praying with confidence the petitions and supplications of our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD. Amen.**